



Bitterroot Valley Board of REALTORS®, Inc.

224 North Fourth Street
Hamilton, Montana 59840

REALTOR®

Phone: 406-363-2000 Fax: 406-363-4511 email: layna@bvbor.net

September 30, 2008

Commission Carlotta Grandstaff, Chairperson
Commissioner Jim Rokosch
Commissioner Greg Chilcott
Commissioner Alan Thompson
Commissioner Kathleen Driscoll

Dear Commissioners,

The Bitterroot Board of REALTORS® has invested over three years of considerable resources and time in the Streamside Setback process. As a long time supporter of the public process, the ad that was placed by the Higher Ground Foundation Inc. in the Ravalli Republic on the 18th of September 2008 very much concerned us. We are disturbed at the apparent disregard of Montana's open meeting law by some members of the Streamside Setback Committee.

Resolution 3000, dated April 12, 2007, requires ".....a thoroughly transparent and participatory process, frequently soliciting citizens input and incorporating the public's feedback as an integral part of the proposal."

We are concerned that an extensive portion of the draft was done in subcommittee without proper public notice. Therefore, there was not sufficient public input.

The lack of compliance with the open meeting law is even more apparent because several of the committee members are members of other County Boards. The committee should know the law. And, as the authorizing body, you are accountable to see that they know and follow the law.

Our association represents over 300 members and countless property owners throughout Ravalli County. The current draft regulations should not be implemented because they did not have sufficient public input under Montana law. We respectfully ask that you review and correct this situation.

Sincerely,

Gary Koepplin, President Elect
Bitterroot Valley Board of REALTORS®

